



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, September 6, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report that Defense Minister Onodera told reporters today that the scale of the blast from North Korea's sixth nuclear test was more than 10 times that of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. NTV gave top play to a report that North Korea's foreign ministry threatened the U.S. on Tuesday evening in response to the UNSC's attempt to adopt a new sanctions resolution. Other top news included a report that a U.S. research group said new satellite imagery appears to show that numerous landslides occurred near a North Korean nuclear test site the day after the country conducted its sixth nuclear test.

SECURITY

U.S., Japanese defense chiefs agree to put visible pressure on North Korea

NHK reported this morning that Defense Minister Onodera held a teleconference with Defense Secretary Mattis this morning, during which he expressed hope to work closely with the U.S. as the scale of North Korea's latest nuclear test was larger than ever and poses a grave and imminent threat. Secretary Mattis reportedly responded by saying that the U.S. will defend Japan under extended deterrence. In addition, the Secretary reportedly said the U.S. will actively cooperate with Japan's plan to introduce the Aegis Ashore missile intercepting system. The network said the two defense chiefs confirmed that their nations will continue to apply visible pressure on North Korea, such as joint military exercises, in order to urge North Korea to take concrete actions toward denuclearization.

The network quoted Onodera as telling reporters after the teleconference with Secretary Mattis: "He reiterated the strong commitment to defend Japan.... It is important for defense authorities to apply pressure for the sake of diplomatic negotiations." All commercial networks carried similar stories.

President Trump says Japan, ROK to buy more American weapons

Mainichi took up a tweet posted by President Trump on Tuesday in which he said: "I am allowing Japan & South Korea to buy a substantially increased amount of highly sophisticated military equipment from the United States." The daily said that by capitalizing on the heightened tension over North Korea, the Trump administration is eager to promote weapons exports to its two Asian allies under the pretext of helping them enhance deterrence capabilities.

- [USFJ commander pledges U.S.'s "absolute commitment" to Japan's defense](#) (Asahi)
- [U.S. cooperation may be needed to evacuate Japanese from S. Korea](#) (Jiji Press)
- [MIC to develop cybersecurity certification system for IoT devices](#) (Nikkei)
- [Only 30% of universities have guidelines for military research, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)

INTERNATIONAL

Armitage says North Korea may try to approach U.S. for direct dialogue soon

Fuji TV reported at noon that former Deputy Secretary of State Armitage told the network that there is no question that North Korea has succeeded in developing the technology to combine a hydrogen bomb and an ICBM. He was quoted as saying: "I don't think there is any question that the so-called hydrogen bomb, married with an ICBM, is a new element, a new technological achievement by North Korea." Armitage also reportedly expressed the view that North Korea may soon approach the U.S. for direct dialogue, saying that acquiring the ability to combine a hydrogen bomb with an ICBM has given the North Korean leader great confidence.

North tested nuclear device with a yield 10 times more powerful than Hiroshima bomb

NHK reported at noon that Defense Minister Onodera told reporters this morning that the latest analysis by the CTBTO found that the scale of the explosion of North Korea's sixth nuclear test was equivalent to about 160 kilotons of TNT, an explosive yield nearly 10 times more powerful than that of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The Defense Ministry originally estimated that the latest nuclear test produced about 120 kilotons. The network quoted Onodera as telling reporters: "The CTBTO's final assessment is that the scale of the latest nuclear test by North Korea was magnitude 6.1. When you calculate based on this figure, the explosive yield comes to about 160 kilotons. This is a much more powerful explosion than those of past nuclear tests."

- [Abe, Putin to OK joint activities on disputed isles in 5 areas](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Expert says North Korea might have succeeded in developing nuclear warhead for ICBMs](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Former UN panel member calls for comprehensive ban on exports to North Korea](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan, U.K. defense ministers confirm cooperation on North Korea](#) (Asahi)
- [Shikotan residents looking to develop island with Japan, but questioning Japan's commitment](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan taps ex-envoy to Iran as ambassador to Philippines](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Japan-U.S. must closely coordinate in response to N. Korea crisis](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Commentary on newspaper editorials' opinions on how to respond to North Korean threat](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Kim Jong-un](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: President Trump and PM Abe](#) (Asahi)
- [Successive U.S. administrations fail to end Pyongyang's nuclear and missile development](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

ECONOMY

- [RCEP hits snags on continued discord over tariffs](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Harvey deals a blow to Japanese firms](#) (Nikkei)
- [Insights into the World / Abe's success hinges on wages, investment](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan, U.S. to set up working-level talks on trade, infrastructure](#) (Kyodo News)
- [British scholar to join new panel on human resources development](#) (Nikkei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Sept. 5, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP policy chief Kishida on consumption tax, Abenomics, constitution, more](#) (Yomiuri)

- [New DP Secretary General Oshima lacks experience](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Profiles of new DP executive members](#) (Mainichi)
- [Ishiba skeptical about Diet dissolution within the year](#) (Mainichi)
- [Ishiba faction increases membership to 20](#) (Yomiuri)

OPINION POLLS

- [Highlights of the August 2017 Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)
- [42% have "increased interest" in Kake scandal, Mainichi poll](#) (Mainichi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Mainichi Shimbun](#) (Mainichi)

SCIENCE

- [Rocket launch sites planned in Japan, led by private sector](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan scientists develop noninvasive method to diagnose Alzheimer's disease](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Compound normalizes brain structure, function in mice with Down syndrome, Kyoto researchers say](#) (The Japan Times)

EDUCATION

- [3 Asian universities among top 30 schools for 1st time: rankings](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan's declining basic research skills partially attributable to int'l students](#) (Ekonomisuto)

SOCIETY

More people choosing to bequeath assets to charity

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported that a growing number of people in Japan are choosing to bequeath their fortunes to such public entities as UNICEF and the Ashinaga Scholarship Society in order to leave a legacy. The program reported on a dog lover who decided to bequeath all her assets to the Japan Guide Dog Association. According to the show, Japanese people's interest in donating money has increased since the Great East Japan Earthquake and there are expectations that a culture of charity will finally take root in Japan.

- [2 in 3 30-ish single men never in relationship for marriage: online poll](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan most pessimistic about future among 4 Asian democracies: poll](#) (Kyodo News)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [Big contracts concluded for relocating Okinawa marines to Guam](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
 - [Gov't only inspects one site for relocation of Osprey drills outside Okinawa](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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